

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A short messaging communication system for communicating short messages to a user located in an operating region of the system. Information beacons or beacons which function as store and forward devices operable in a corresponding local operating region communicate with terminal devices that are located within the local operating region. Short  
5 messages can be "private" messages wherein only specified recipients are permitted access, or "public" messages whose access is not limited to specific users. A message stored on a beacon can be retrieved by a recipient when the recipient's presence in the operating range is detected, whereupon the beacon will wirelessly transmit the message to the recipient device. For private  
10 messages, a password or other security access code may be required for input into the receiving device to decipher the received message.